



# THE CALIFORNIA PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: LESSONS LEARNED DURING AN INITIAL EXPANSION OF SERVICES

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## BACKGROUND

- HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is highly effective at preventing HIV infection, but high medication and medical costs can put PrEP access and adherence out of reach for uninsured and underinsured individuals.
- Although manufacturer assistance programs have made PrEP medication more accessible, uninsured individuals still have out-of-pocket costs for:
  - Medical visits
  - Laboratory testing
  - Medication costs for sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment and recommended vaccinations
- An integrated system can manage eligibility, provider options, and payment information to help minimize the risk of PrEP interruptions and unexpected medical bills.
- The California PrEP Assistance Program (PrEP-AP) removes financial and structural barriers to PrEP access by leveraging the administrative and technical infrastructure of its AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

## PROGRAM DESIGN

- PrEP-AP provides funding for medical out-of-pocket costs provided by PrEP-AP network providers and medications on the PrEP-AP formulary.
- Uninsured clients can receive care from a centrally contracted PrEP-AP Provider Network.
- PrEP-AP client and service utilization is managed via specialized modules in the ADAP Enrollment System, which integrates medication and outpatient care eligibility, provider details, and payment information.

## PrEP-AP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

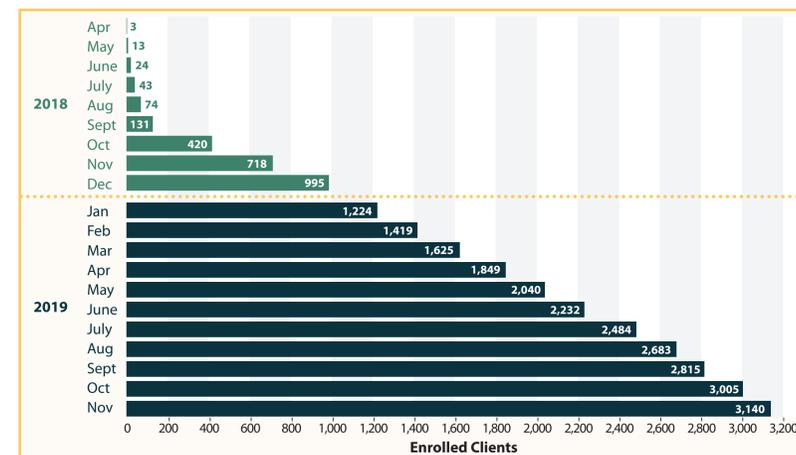
- Eligibility**  
Eligibility mirrors ADAP eligibility. Clients may enroll if:
  - A California resident
  - 12 years of age or older
  - HIV negative
  - Modified adjusted gross income under 500% federal poverty line
  - Not enrolled in Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program
  - Enrolled in a manufacturer's medication assistance program, if eligible
- Services**
  - Access to and payment for medications on the PrEP-AP formulary for HIV prevention and STI treatment (excludes medications provided free by the manufacturer)
  - Payment assistance for approved PrEP-related clinical out-of-pocket costs charged by a contracted provider in the PrEP-AP Provider Network for:
    - Outpatient medical visits (including telemedicine)
    - HIV/STI testing
    - Pregnancy testing
    - Renal function testing
    - Hepatitis A/B/C testing
    - Copayment coverage (if insured)
    - Post-exposure prophylaxis
    - Rapid antiretroviral treatment coverage (if seroconversion)
    - An option to enroll outside of a partner's insurance plan for confidentiality reasons

## TABLES AND FIGURES

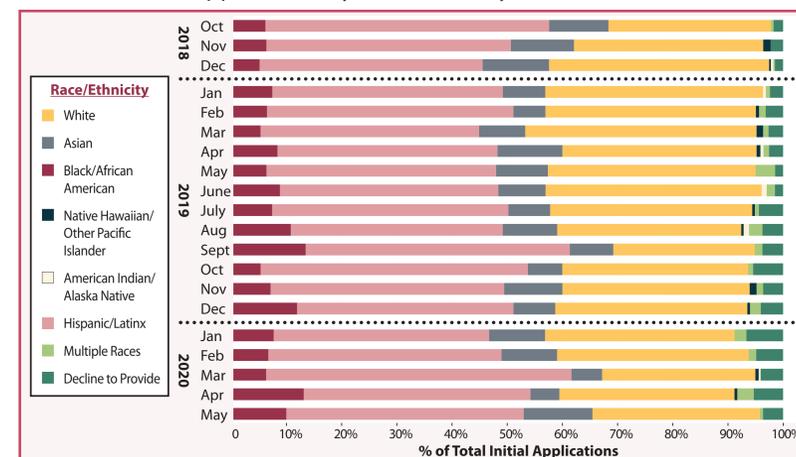
**Table:** Demographic Characteristics of People Enrolled in the California Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP) and People Who Were Diagnosed With HIV Infection in California in 2017

	Active Enrollment in PrEP-AP	New HIV Diagnoses in California, 2017
<b>Gender</b>		
Cisgender men	2,775 (95%)	4,188 (87%)
Cisgender women	82 (3%)	526 (11%)
Transgender women	45 (2%)	72 (1.5%)
Transgender men	3 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)
Unknown	4 (0.1%)	0 (0%)
<b>Age (Years)</b>		
18 - 24	305 (10%)	914 (19%)
25 - 34	1,461 (50%)	1,710 (36%)
35 - 44	691 (24%)	1,005 (21%)
45 - 64	358 (12%)	1,040 (22%)
≥ 65	98 (3%)	81 (2%)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic/Latinx	1,236 (42%)	2,232 (47%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	7 (0.2%)	18 (0.4%)
Asian	260 (9%)	344 (7.2%)
Black/African American	211 (7%)	802 (16.7%)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	11 (0.3%)	12 (0.3%)
White	1,065 (37%)	1,245 (26%)
Multiple races	40 (1%)	138 (3%)
Unknown	83 (3%)	0 (0%)
<b>Geographic Region of Residence</b>		
Southern California	2,545 (87%)	3,053 (64%)
Bay Area	268 (9%)	859 (18%)
Central Valley	11 (0.4%)	503 (10.5%)
Other regions	100 (3.4%)	376 (8%)

**Figure 1:** California Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP) Enrollment, 2018-2019



**Figure 2:** California Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP) Initial Applications by Race/Ethnicity, 2018-2019



## LESSONS LEARNED

- Creation of California's PrEP-AP Leveraging ADAP Infrastructure**  
Integrating PrEP-AP within ADAP's infrastructure offered multiple advantages:
  - Adapting and utilizing ADAP enrollment sites, eligibility and enrollment management training materials, software applications, and data integration workflows for PrEP-AP shortened the implementation timeline and continues to provide cost savings.
  - PrEP-AP applications are processed electronically using modified business rules to ensure privacy and confidentiality that were originally developed for California's web-based ADAP Enrollment System.
  - Knowledge of medical billing clearinghouses and insurance benefits management systems from ADAP was leveraged to streamline payment of PrEP-related claims.
  - Access to medications and vaccines on the PrEP-AP formulary was implanted using California's ADAP pharmacy benefits manager and network of ADAP pharmacies.
- Rapid Program Expansion**  
Enrollment increased to over 3,000 people by November 2019 (Figure 1).
  - Early adoption by community-based organizations drove initial enrollment.
  - Later partnerships with healthcare plans helped to consistently maintain growth.
- Unenrollment of Several Populations**  
Comparisons between PrEP-AP enrollees and people diagnosed with HIV in California in 2017 identified several groups with low PrEP-AP enrollment including cisgender women, young people (age 18 – 24 years), Black/African Americans, and people residing in the Central Valley. In response to this data, several programs have been introduced:
  - In 2020 Project Empowerment was initiated, a \$4.5 million project to provide comprehensive HIV prevention to Black/African American and Latinx populations.
  - In May 2020, PrEP-AP was enhanced to allow enrollment without utilizing the insurance of your family or partner to address confidentiality concerns for young people and other groups.
- Flexibility to Maintain Benefits During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
  - Implementation of tele-enrollment procedures during "Stay-at-Home" orders.
  - Automatic extensions of eligibility.
  - Expansion of mail order and delivery options for PrEP.

## SUMMARY

- ADAP resources can be effectively leveraged to facilitate PrEP assistance implementation.
- PrEP-AP has expanded access to PrEP in California but several populations are relatively under enrolled.
- Program flexibility is necessary to implement new enhancements and to react to unanticipated challenges.